

SCRIPTURE FROM THE GOSPELS AND THE PROPHETS

THE Christmas Story

*For a child will be born
to us, a son will be given
to us; And the government
will rest on His shoulders;
And His name will be
called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting
Father, Prince of Peace.*



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The Advent of Hope

IN THE fullness of time, God sent the angel Gabriel to Zacharias, a humble Levite priest, who ministered before God at the temple in Jerusalem. Appearing in a vision, the angel foretold the birth of John the Baptist who would be sent to prepare the way for the Messiah. And with the coming of His forerunner the first stirring of the Messiah's own coming was announced:

"And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias [Elijah], to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."—LUKE 1:17

THIS STATEMENT echoed a prophecy from 460 years earlier:

"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD..." —MALACHI 4:5

AND ALSO "... The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness: *"Prepare ye the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God."* —ISAIAH 40:3

FOR MANY centuries, the promise of the Messiah had tarried. But now that ancient hope was renewed and a sense of anticipation awakened. For the

opening steps had begun, the Messiah was coming at last, and the world would be forever changed. Prophecies long dormant were springing to life before their eyes.

IN THE sixth month the angel was sent again, this time to a young virgin named Mary, who was espoused to Joseph of the house of David. And in greeting her, he spoke of the favor she had found with God:

"Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women!"

—LUKE 1:28

Espousal was a stronger version of our modern concept of an engagement, though it was less than an actual marriage. Because of this, Joseph had not yet known Mary intimately.

IN MARY'S genealogy the seed of David had been preserved, and through her espoused husband Joseph, the claim to David's kingdom, which had fallen long ago. And in the child she would bear, the two parts of God's ancient covenant would come together again in one person at last.

OLD TESTAMENT scriptures are in red.
NEW TESTAMENT scriptures are in brown.

*"I have made a covenant with
My chosen, I have sworn unto
David My servant, 'Thy seed will
I establish for ever, and build
up thy throne to all generations.*

—PSALM 89:3–4



*O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

THE ANGEL told how the child would inherit the throne of David, his earthly forefather:

*"He shall be great, and shall be
called the Son of the Highest:
and the Lord God shall give
unto him the throne of his father
David: And He shall reign over
the house of Jacob for ever; and
of His kingdom there shall be no
end."* —LUKE 1:32–33

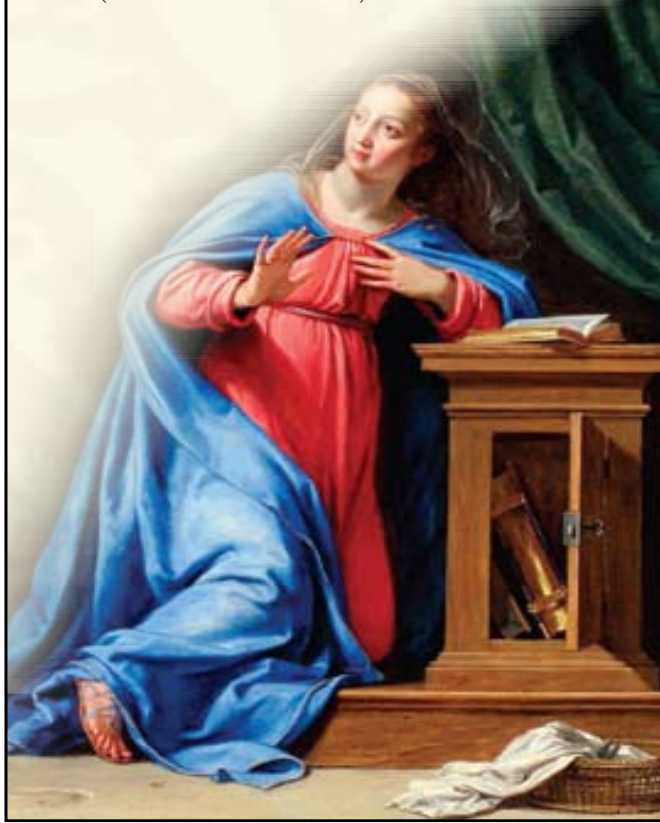
*"For unto us a Child is born,
unto us a Son is given: and the
government will be upon His
shoulder: and His name will be
called Wonderful, Counselor,
The mighty God, The everlasting
Father, The Prince of Peace. Of
the increase of His government
and peace there shall be no
end, upon the throne of David,
and upon his kingdom, to order
it, and to establish it with
judgment and with justice from
henceforth even forever. The zeal
of the LORD of hosts will perform
this."* —ISAIAH 9:6–7

BUT MARY was confused by his proclamation. How could the angel speak of her giving birth, when she was still a virgin? "How shall this be?" She asked. So the angel foretold the virgin birth to her:

*"The Holy Ghost shall come upon
thee, and the power of the Highest
shall overshadow thee: therefore,*

also, that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.” —LUKE 1:35

FOR THREE months, Mary stayed with her cousin Elizabeth (to whom John the Baptist would be born), and when she returned to Joseph in Nazareth her pregnancy was beginning to show. Joseph, not understanding what had taken place, naturally suspected the worst, and considered ending the betrothal. But being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, he was minded to do this quietly. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost” (Matthew 1:18–20).



“Hear ye now, O house of David!... the Lord Himself shall give you a sign: Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.” (which is translated ‘God with us’)

—ISAIAH 7:13–14, MATTHEW 1:23

“And she shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His name JESUS...” —MATTHEW 1:21

“...The LORD hath called Me from the womb; from the bowels of My mother hath He made mention of My name.” —ISAIAH 49:1

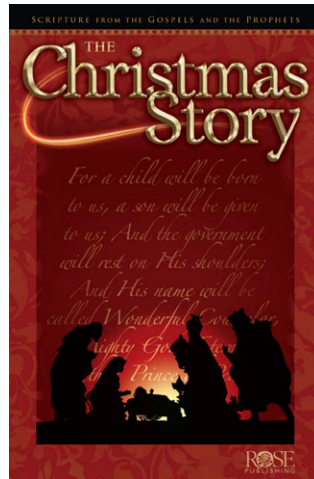
“... For He will save His people from their sins.” —MATTHEW 1:21

“...the LORD ...formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, to bring Jacob back to Him . . .”

—ISAIAH 49:5

Then Joseph, being raised from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: and knew her not until she had brought forth her firstborn Son: and he called His name JESUS. —MATTHEW 1:24–25

O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.



The Christmas Story, Pamphlet

This beautiful pamphlet tells the story of Jesus' birth and the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies. Perfect for a Bible Study during Advent or a church handout at Christmas, it uses the traditional wording from Matthew and Luke's Gospels, starting with the angelic announcement of John the Baptist's birth and culminating with the Gospel story and a forward look toward Christ's second coming. Treasured for its beautiful artwork and convenient size, it fits neatly inside a Bible cover and can be folded out to reveal the story within 14 panels.

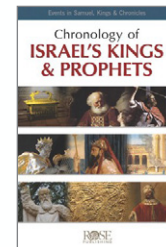
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